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UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of

ISHIKAWA et al.

Atty. Ref.: 461-153

Serial No. 10/705,883

TC/A.U.: 3742

Filed: November 13, 2003

Examiner: Leung, Philip

For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DRYING CERAMIC MOLDED ARTICLES

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April 19, 2006

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Attached is a Form PTO/SB/08a listing documents for consideration by the Examiner. Copies of the non-U.S. documents are attached.

The listed documents were cited in the attached German Official Action issued in a counterpart foreign application. A translation of the Official Action is also enclosed.

See the degree of relevancy and the particular passages cited for each document in that Official Action.

It is noted that, on information and belief, U.S. Patent Nos. 4,956,530, 5,408,074, and 3,151,230 are the U.S. counterparts respectively to DE 3830867, DE 4136416, and DE 1440523. Those 3 U.S. patents were previously cited with the U.S. Official Action of November 10, 2005. Listed GB document 851,109 is another English language counterpart to listed reference DE 1440523.

I hereby certify that each enclosed document listed on the herewith Form PTO/SB/08a was first cited in the attached German Office Action, dated February 2, 2006, issued in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months ago.

Should a final Rejection or Notice of Allowance have been issued on the same day as or before the filing date of this Information Disclosure Statement, please consider this a Petition under Rule 97(d) (ii), charge the Petition fee to our Deposit Account No. 14-1140 under Order No. 461/153, and proceed to consider this Information Disclosure Statement under Rule 97 (d).

This Information Disclosure Statement is intended to be in full compliance with the rules, but should the Examiner find any part of its required content to have been omitted, prompt notice to that effect is earnestly solicited, along with additional time under Rule 97(f), to enable Applicant to comply fully.

Consideration of the foregoing and enclosures plus the return of a copy of the herewith Form PTO/SB/08a with the Examiner's initials in the left column per MPEP 609 are earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By: 

Michelle N. Lester

Reg. No. 32,331

MNL:slj
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE CITATION

ATTY. DOCKET/NO.

461-153

APPLICANT

ISHIKAWA et al.

FILING DATE

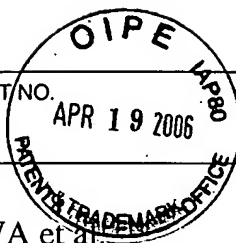
November 13, 2003

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TC/A.U.

3742



(Use several sheets if necessary)

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

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FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

| DOCUMENT | | | | | | TRANSLATION | |
|----------|----------|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| | DOCUMENT | DATE | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | YES | NO |
| | 3830867 | 01/1990 | DE | | | | |
| | 4136416 | 05/1993 | DE | | | | |
| | 1440523 | 11/1968 | DE | | | | |
| | 10201300 | 08/2002 | DE | | | | |
| | 851,109 | 10/1960 | GB | | | | |
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OTHER DOCUMENTS (including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent pages, etc.)

[illegible]

*Examiner

Date Considered

Examiner: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to application.